

## **Foreman's Report October 5 thru November 8, 2013**

Routine fall road maintenance has been sorely lacking, as we have had nearly continual daily precipitation, and it has been very hard to find a window for a good final grading on all the gravel roads before winter, but the last couple days has let us begin. We were able to get a couple of small road fixes in and have begun to prepare the equipment for winter.

We have been slowly but surely working towards compliance with the safety orders...again.

Ethan, Steven and Leo have been laid off.

### **Industrial Zone**

We got a good start on trying to build the new road through the wetland fill area and up to the high ground, but once again the weather has prevented us from getting to the point of making a couple of more lots available. The Town will not be able to lease any more lots until the crew gets a little further along into this project.

### **Town wells**

We fixed the overflow at Joni's Beach to the point where someone could fill water jugs there. It is only 1/3 the flow of Dresen's, but it is on Town property. That doesn't seem like a good option to me for someone that needs to carry water, when there is a hose bib on the west side of the firehall, where one can drive right up to within four feet of it and fill jugs 365 days a year.

I talked to Bob Melin about the DNR compliance letter for the pergola, and this is something we can do ourselves, but it will have to wait until next spring, as it involves wire brushing down the casing and apply epoxy paint.

The DNR/Ashland County Health Department has issued orders on seven Town wells in the past two or three years, and apparently is a subject we need to stay more on top of, although hopefully the corrections made will suffice for quite some time.

### **Big Bay Town Park**

I spent quite a bit of time updating the website narrative and working with the reservation provider to provide a new map with all the campsites and amenities for the upcoming camping year.

And speaking of maps, I have contacted Nelson Surveyors to go ahead with the approved proposal to map the new roads for incorporation into the Town road system, but this brought about new questions pertaining to a final map of the park with the improvements. This is something I assumed we would be getting from CBE, but since they are no longer a part of the picture I believe we need to hire Nelson Surveyors to do a final map that includes the new trails, building locations, the buried utility lines, parking lots, campsites, etc. They will be able to incorporate this work into work done for road layout.

Waiting for our contractor and subcontractors to finish the work on the new campground loop has been frustrating, but the Arnie Mackey crew showed up Tuesday and have got bathroom #2 all enclosed, now we just need the plumbing and electrical sub-contractors to show up, as there has been some payment and contract problems.

Xcel Energy has run the new primary wire to the new pedestals and meter socket.

We have used up the wood chip pile and need another stockpile made so that we can continue working on these inner campground trails as time and weather allows. I had hoped Ethan, Steven and Leo could work on this, along with split all the wood we have already bucked up, but Ethan and Steven were not interested in working any longer (partially due to the fact they had a house without heat). I didn't think it would be productive with Leo doing this by himself, so he is laid off and I am not sure what will become of the wood. We were able to get the larger trees planted at the old park entrance and they look nice.

**Retirement**

It has been two months since I informed the TB with my intention to retire with a letter submitted August 30, which addressed more issues and questions than just my retirement. Many of my fellow employees are wondering as to what the TB's intentions are, as no matter what direction this goes, there will be adjustments made and it is only fair to give people time to plan for changes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Keith Sowl  
Town Foreman  
Town of La Pointe